

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	WT Docket No. 05-235
Amendment of Part 97 of the)	
Commission's Rules)	RM-10781, RM-10782, RM-10783,
To Implement WRC-03 Regulations)	RM-10784, RM-10785, RM-10786,
Applicable to Requirements for)	RM-10787, RM-10805, RM-10806,
Operator Licenses in the Amateur)	RM-10807, RM-10808, RM-10809,
Radio Service)	RM-10810, RM-10811, RM-10867,
)	RM-10868, RM-10869, RM-10870

To: The Commission

Comments by Curtis J Robison

The following comments are respectfully submitted in response to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (The Notice), FCC 05-143A1, WT Docket No. 05-235 released on July 19, 2005.

Introduction

My name is Curtis J. Robison, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at 88 W. Market Street, Tiffin, OH 44883. I currently hold an amateur radio service license, KC8PUY. I am a veteran of the United States Navy. I am the owner of Communications Just Right, a business located in Tiffin, Ohio providing various satellite based services to the local area. This filing is to present my comments in reference to WT Docket No. 05-235.

Background

The Federal Communications Commission's rules define the amateur service as a radio communication service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication, and technical investigations by amateur radio operators. [See 47 C.F.R. 2.1(c), 97.3(a)(4)] This definition reflects the principles that express the fundamental purposes of recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service; continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art; encouragement and improvement of the service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the radio art; expansion of the existing reservoir of trained operators, technicians, and electronic experts; and continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill. An amateur radio operator is a person named in an amateur operator/primary license station grant on the FCC Universal Licensing System database, who is interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest, and who may engage in voluntary, noncommercial communications with other amateur radio operators located in the United States and in foreign countries. Amateur radio operators on a voluntary basis also may provide communications to meet essential needs and facilitate relief actions when normal communications systems are overloaded, damaged, or disrupted.

Discussion

The single point of discussion before the Commission as address by this Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order is the removal of the current requirement for testing of a five words per minute (wpm) telegraphy examination (Element 1). This requirement as discussed in the restructuring of 2000 [*See 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review – Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission’s Amateur Service Rules, Report and Order, WT Docket no. 98-143, 15 FCC Rcd 315 (1999) (Restructure Report and Order); Memorandum Opinion and Order, 16 FCC Rcd 8076 (2001) (Restructure Memorandum Opinion and Order)*] was left in place to comply with the requirements of the Final Acts of the World Radio Communication Conference (WRC-97), Geneva, Switzerland, 1997, and the Final Acts of the World Radio Communications Conference, (WRC-00, Istanbul, 2000, Radio Regulation S25.5 that stated “*Any person seeking a license to operate the apparatus of an amateur station shall prove that he is able to send correctly by hand and to receive correctly by ear texts in Morse code signals. The administration concerned may, however, waive this requirement in the case of stations making use exclusively of frequencies above 30 Mhz.*”

As a result of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), under the auspices of the United Nations, convened the WRC-03 from June 9 to July 4, 2003, in Geneva, Switzerland. The actions taken at the WRC-03 were published as the WRC-03 Final Acts, and are codified in the ITU Radio Regulations. At the WRC-03, the international regulations applicable to the amateur service were revised in a comprehensive manner, resulting in more streamlined, updated regulations that reflect modern amateur radio communication techniques and technologies. Among other things, the WRC-03 Final Acts amended Article 25 of the Radio Regulations to allow a country to determine whether it would require a person seeking an amateur radio operator license to demonstrate the ability to send and receive texts in Morse code signals. The effect of this revision to Article 25 was to eliminate the international requirement that a person demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an amateur radio operator license with transmitting privileges on frequencies below 30 Mhz.

Conclusion

In considering the above reference information, I have reached the following conclusions:

- 1) As stated in the background paragraph, the amateur radio service is a voluntary activity and as such each individual operator should be allowed to chose whether to participate or not participate in any specific mode of operation authorized under the Commission’s rules
- 2) As a result of the WRC-03, there is no longer an international requirement to demonstrate ability in sending nor receiving Morse code.
- 3) Elimination of the testing requirement for Morse code does not stop anyone that wants to operate in that mode from doing so nor are there any proposed changes in this order that would change the operating band plans for any allocated frequencies.
- 4) The elimination of the Element 1 (Morse code) testing requirement will make entry and advancement of license class in the Amateur Radio Service more attractive to many more qualified individuals with interests in many of the other modes of operation other than Morse code.

Summary

I hereby endorse the recommendations of the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (The Notice), FCC 05-143A1, WT Docket No. 05-235 released on July 19, 2005, as published without changes.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of September, 2005

By:

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